

ought to be borne by the General Fund. Even when I was opposed to increasing court costs to automate the system of the courts, I...my argument was that those ought to be General Fund appropriations because they go to the system, and it's a system that benefits all of society, so the General Fund should be used. So this is not the first issue on which I've taken this position. If you look at the amount that the fiscal note says is to be recouped, under this bill, there is nothing to indicate it will pay the total cost of these things that are envisioned--establishing an entire office in Scottsbluff, hiring the new officers in Omaha, and providing additional staff for central administration. If you do once get those things in place, even without totally funding them through this, it is going to come back and be a burden of the General Fund without there having been an argument or a discussion of the policy decision. And if those things have been put in place, it's doubtful that the Legislature would cut them off, and the General Fund is going to have to assume the burden of paying for it anyway, and then we have these inmates hanging out here, paying this money that some of them are not going to have when the program ultimately is funded by the General Fund anyway. Before you all praise Senator Pirsch too much, as Senator Lindsay did, this came from the Department of Corrections. She did not sit down and say this is how to raise money, I'm going to tell you again the Department of Corrections had tried to do this the year before administratively. And I pay attention to the burdens that are placed on inmates and I intervened, and that's why they had to stop doing it. So, when they offered a bill, brought by Senator Lindsay, Senator Pirsch and others, they were cagey. They said, we will put in the bill that the total cost of parole supervision will be on the inmates. That will be way too much to pay, so it will seem reasonable to drop that down to a mere dollar a day. So, they were playing the political game that they think has to be played. But here is where I fault the Department of Corrections, they simply are afraid to ask for a budgetary appropriation to meet the costs of the job that they have to do. I don't know if they're afraid of Governor "Me Too", or what. But they should be required, as every other agency is, to come in here and lay out what it is they need and seek the appropriation. They know that a lot of what they offer...they need I will support, I've told them that. I've carried bills for them, but they're just afraid for some reason. I think they decided to take this route because they feel there is such an anti-inmate attitude here that there won't be much of a question raised. I was personally shocked to see